

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Salisbury Firefighters to Raise 9-11 Patriot Flag at Harold B. Jarrett Post on October 20

Patriot Flag to Fly in All Fifty States Prior to Tenth Anniversary 9-11 Services

Salisbury, NC_October 19, 2010 – Salisbury Fire Chief Bob Parnell announced today that Salisbury firefighters will support the Harold B. Jarrett American Legion Post on October 20, 2010 as the “Patriot Flag” is raised in Salisbury, North Carolina to honor those who perished during 9-11-01. The 30 x 58 foot flag, weighing 60 lbs., will fly in all fifty states before it is flown in Manhattan-New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania during 9-11 tenth anniversary memorial services. The Tar Heel State will pay homage to our nation’s fallen brothers and sisters this Wednesday as the “Patriot Flag” is raised at 9:59 am during the commencement of an outdoor memorial service at Legion Post 342, 1024 Lincolnton Road. A service consisting of brief comments by local dignitaries will follow the raising of the flag.

Mayor Susan Kluttz, who will speak at the “Patriot Flag” service shares, “On behalf of the Salisbury City Council, it is truly an honor to witness the raising of the ‘Patriot Flag’ in our city of Salisbury, North Carolina. We gather as a community to remember the many selfless acts of sincere heroism by the brave men and women who responded that fateful day. Together, we uplift and embrace the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, so that others might be saved.” Mayor Kluttz notes that a similar spirit of sincerity and humble heroism is reflected each day throughout Salisbury-Rowan. “Through their daily acts of quiet valor and dedication, we are able to witness this same heroic spirit as provided by our local fire, police, rescue, and emergency medical service workers. Their constant dedication and compassion offer a courageous testimony to the memory of those who perished during 9-11 and to the enduring strength of the American people. We proudly raise the ‘Patriot Flag’ in Salisbury on behalf of all North Carolinians and together we salute the cherished resilience of our nation’s spirit.” Mayor Kluttz will read a proclamation during the Salisbury City Council meeting held later today, proclaiming October 20, 2010 as “Patriot Flag Day” in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Chief Parnell notes that the Salisbury Fire Department is honored to participate in the raising of the “Patriot Flag” on behalf of the state of North Carolina. “We will proudly raise the ‘Patriot Flag’ on the Ladder 4 Fire Apparatus at 9:59 am. This time is significant as it coincides with the collapse of the South Tower, the first World Trade Center tower to fall on 9-11. Ladder 4 will then serve as the stationary flag staff for two days. The ‘Patriot Flag’ will then be lowered and shipped to its next destination.” Parnell offers that

by participating in this service, the Salisbury Fire Department hopes to send a message to the families and friends of those who perished on 9/11/01. "The countless acts of courage by these brave individuals will never be forgotten. We pay tribute to their dedicated service, their patriotism, and to their American honor. It is with sincere pride, dignity, and admiration that we raise this flag in Salisbury, NC."

Harry Garwood, Adjutant of American Legion Post 342, notes that citizens are encouraged to attend the memorial service event and respectfully asked to arrive on-site by 9:45 am. The service will be held in the lot adjacent to the legion post with citizen parking available in the conveniently located High Rock Community Church parking lot. Garwood shares that the memorial service site is wheelchair-accessible and that citizens in wheelchairs and with physical needs may be dropped off at the site prior to the parking of vehicles. For more information regarding the Harold B. Jarrett American Legion Post, please contact Commander Mark Cauble at 704-637-1722 (weekdays before noon) or by email at Apost342@aol.com.

Firefighter Paramedic Mitch Mendler of the San Diego Fire Department is the "Patriot Flag" project coordinator and serves as the logistics manager for the traveling tribute. Mendler shares his passion for the project via the official "Patriot Flag" website (www.publicsafety.net/thepatriotflag.htm) as he notes, "We did not run. The first responders, paramedics, police officers, firefighters, lay persons, the armed forces defended liberty and freedom." The site uplifts the national journey of the "Patriot Flag" as it offers that "Unfurling this flag - flying the red, white and blue - will stir the American spirit." To follow the travels of the "Patriot Flag" online, please visit www.publicsafety.net/thepatriotflag.htm#SCHEDULE. As of October 14, 2010, the site offers that the "Patriot Flag" has already traveled 1,796 miles on its year-long journey across all fifty states.

To learn more about the Salisbury Fire Department, please visit us online at www.salisburync.gov/fire or call 704-638-5351. The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and over 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury's Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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